

MedlinePlus Health Topics Web Service

The MedlinePlus health topics Web service accepts keyword searches as requests and returns relevant health topics in ranked order in XML format. With the Web service, software developers can build applications that leverage the authoritative, reliable health information in MedlinePlus. In addition to health topic links, the Web service also returns associated data, including:

- Topic summaries
- Topic groups
- See references and synonyms
- Snippets containing the search keywords in context
- MeSH headings

The Web service is free of charge, does not require registration or licensing, and allows for unlimited data calls. Currently, the Web service only covers English health topics.

The MedlinePlus health topics Web service harnesses the power of the MedlinePlus search engine and provides an ideal solution for implementations that require on-demand delivery of the most up-to-date information. For example, it can be used to deliver real-time search results to users or to create static links on a Web site. To learn more, see <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webservices.html>.

MedlinePlus XML Files

MedlinePlus produces three types of static vocabulary XML files, each updated weekly. The files cover all English and Spanish health topics and can be found on the MedlinePlus XML files page, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/xml.html>, which includes files for the most recent six weeks.

Complete MedlinePlus Vocabulary and Summaries XML

For each health topic, this XML file contains the following information:

- Topic name
- Associated vocabulary (synonyms, see references, and MeSH headings)
- URL
- Topic group(s)
- Creation date
- Topic summary
- Language indicator

MedlinePlus Topic Group XML

This file contains information on all of the English and Spanish health topic groups on MedlinePlus.

MedlinePlus Vocabulary and Summaries Delta XML

This file contains information on the changes that occurred to the Complete MedlinePlus Vocabulary and Summaries XML file since the previous file was released.

MedlinePlus Connect

MedlinePlus Connect is a free service that allows patient portals, electronic health record (EHR) systems, and other health IT systems to easily link patients and providers to relevant consumer health information.

MedlinePlus Connect is available as a Web application and a Web service. The MedlinePlus Connect Web service allows EHR systems to pull MedlinePlus links and information directly into the EHR interface, and it relies on the use of medical coding systems in EHRs. When an EHR system sends a code-based request, the MedlinePlus Connect Web service responds in XML Atom feed format.

For more information on MedlinePlus Connect and to see the full range of implementation options, visit <http://medlineplus.gov/connect>.

MedlinePlus RSS Feeds

MedlinePlus offers nearly 1,800 RSS feeds corresponding to every English and Spanish health topic page on the site and several general interest RSS feeds including:

- What's New: MedlinePlus Announcements and Special Features
- MedlinePlus Health News
- New Links on MedlinePlus
- New NIH Links on MedlinePlus
- MedlinePlus on Twitter

You can subscribe to any of these feeds in your favorite RSS reader, and stay up to date with the quality, reliable health information provided by MedlinePlus. Links to all feeds are available on the MedlinePlus RSS feeds page in English,

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/rss.html>, and Spanish,

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/rss.html>.

The MedlinePlus RSS feeds are for personal use only. They may contain licensed content and, therefore, NLM cannot grant you permission to use the MedlinePlus RSS feeds on your Web site or information services.

For more information on any of the XML data sources described above, email the MedlinePlus team by clicking on the "Contact Us" link at the top of any [MedlinePlus.gov](http://medlineplus.gov) page.

